

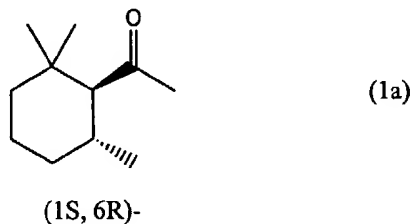
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims so that they read as follows:

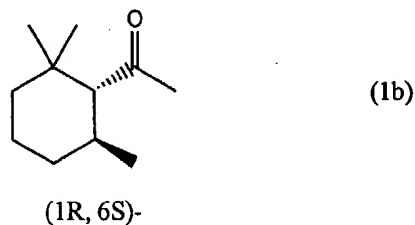
Claims 1-3 (canceled)

~~1~~ ~~4~~. (Currently Amended) ~~The 2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone~~
according to claim 3, A composition comprising:

at least one of a (1S,6R)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone represented
by the formula (1a):



and at least one of a (1R,6S)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone
represented by the formula (1b):



wherein the optical purity of the 2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone in
the composition is at least 75% e.e.

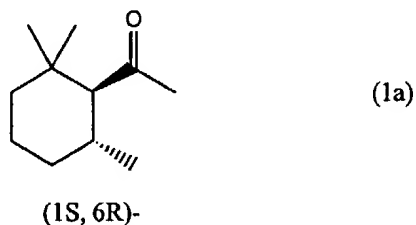
~~2~~ ~~5~~. (Currently Amended) ~~The 2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone~~
composition according to claim ~~4~~, wherein the optical purity of the 2,2,6-

trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone in the composition is from 75% e.e. to 98% e.e.

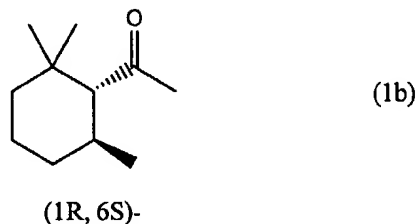
Claims 6-8 (canceled)

~~3~~ ³ (Currently Amended) ~~The perfume composition according to claim 8,~~
A perfume composition comprising:

at least one of a (1S,6R)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone represented
by the formula (1a):



and at least one of a (1R,6S)-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone
represented by the formula (1b):

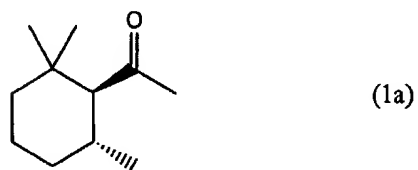


and an acceptable carrier

wherein the optical purity of the 2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone in
the composition is at least 75% e.e.

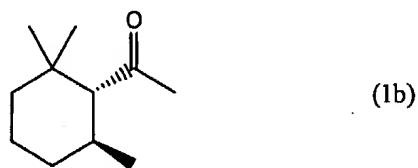
~~4~~ ³ ~~10~~ (Currently Amended) ~~The perfume composition according to claim 9,~~
wherein the optical purity of 2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone in the
composition is from 75% e.e. to 98% e.e.

5. (Original) A process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone, comprising at least one of a compound represented by the formula (1a):



(1S, 6R)-

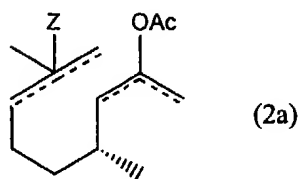
and a compound represented by the formula (1b):



(1R, 6S)-

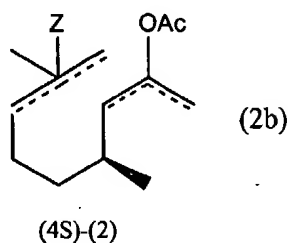
the process comprising:

cyclizing a novel optically active enol acetate represented by at least one of formula (2a):



(4R)-(2)

and formula (2b):



wherein Ac represents an acetyl group; double lines composed of solid lines and broken lines represent a double bond or single bond; when said double lines represent a single bond, Z represents a hydroxyl group or a methoxy group; and, when said double lines represent a double bond, Z is absent, in the presence of an acid catalyst.

- 6 ~~12~~. (Original) The process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone according to claim ~~11~~⁵, where said acid catalyst is a protonic acid.
- 7 ~~13~~. (Currently Amended) The process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone according to claim ~~12~~⁶, wherein said protonic acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, polyphosphoric acid, para-toluenesulfonic acid, naphthalene sulfonic acid, ~~Amberlyst-15~~ a sulfonated styrene-divinylbenzene polymer, sulfuric acid-carrying activated clay and ~~Nafion-H~~ a perfluorosulfonic acid polymer.
- 8 ~~14~~. (Original) The process for producing trans-2,2,6-trimethylcyclohexyl methyl ketone according to claim ~~11~~⁵, wherein said acid catalyst is present from about 0.1 to 5 equivalents relative to 1 equivalent of the enol acetate.

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-3, and 6-8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4-5, 9-10, and 13 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the finding of allowable subject matter in claims 4-5, and 9-14.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 3-5 have been rejected as being indefinite. The Examiner states that these claims recite a mixture of two components, but are currently written as a compound claim. Claim 3 has been canceled, and claims 3-5 have been amended to recite a composition.

Claim 13 has been rejected as being indefinite. The Examiner states that a trademark or trade name cannot be used to properly identify an particular material or product. Claim 13 has been amended to remove reference to trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been rejected as obvious over EP 676,393. These claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: March 17, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

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